

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (once amended) Apparatus for recording a location of an object having an object identifier, the apparatus comprising:

camera means for capturing an image of the object identifier, and for capturing an image of a visible location identifier disposed in proximity to the object;

computer processing means connected to the camera means which receives the captured image of the object identifier and processes the image to identify characters of the object identifier, the computer processing means further for receiving and processing the captured image of the location identifier to identify characters of the location identifier;

~~locator means for providing an indication of the location of the object; and~~

output means ~~for outputting information comprising related to the characters of the object identifier and the characters of the location identifier as identified by the computer processing means together with the indication of the location of the object as provided by the~~ locator means; wherein

the apparatus is mountable on a vehicle and thereby transportable about a vicinity in which is situated an object to be located; the camera means can capture the image of the visible object identifier on the object once located; ~~the locator means gives an indication of the position of the object once located;~~ and the output means outputs information regarding the object identifier and the position of the object, such information being storable in a computer database whereby the location of the object can be subsequently determined by input into the database of the characters of the object identifier ~~on the object.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (once amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 1 wherein:

the camera means comprises a first camera for capturing an image of the object identifier and a second camera for capturing an image of the location identifier.

5. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the camera means additionally comprises a third camera also for capturing an image of an object identifier.

6. (original) A vehicle having mounted thereon an apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the first and third cameras capture images respectively left and right of the vehicle and the second camera captures images above the vehicle.

7. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the output means comprises a wireless transmitter.

8. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 comprising additionally a connector for connecting the apparatus to an external power supply.

9. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein each camera of the camera means is an infra-red camera having associated therewith an infra-red illuminator.

10. (once amended) A method of recording a location of an object having an object identifier, the method comprising:

disposing the object in the vicinity of a location identifier;

conveying around a vicinity in which the object is situated an apparatus having camera means, computer processing means, ~~location means~~ and output means;

using the camera means of the apparatus to capture an image of the object identifier;

using the camera means of the apparatus to capture an image of the location identifier;

using the computer processing means of the apparatus to process the captured image of the object identifier to identify characters of the object identifier;

using the computer processing means of the apparatus to process the captured image of the location identifier to identify characters of the location identifier;

~~using the locator means of the apparatus to provide an indication of the location of the object;~~ and

outputting from the apparatus ~~to be stored in a computer database~~ information comprising related to the characters of the object identifier as determined by the computer processing means of the apparatus linked with and the characters of the location identifier ~~indication provided by the locator means.~~

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (original) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the object located in the method is a parked vehicle, the vicinity in which the vehicle is situated is a car park and the object identified is a licence plate or number plate on the vehicle.

14. (original) A method as claimed in claim 13 comprising additionally the step of using the computer database to locate a parked vehicle by inputting characters of licence plate or number plate of the vehicle into the computer database in order to recall the location information linked to the characters of the licence plate or number plate.

15. (once amended) A vehicle mounted apparatus for determining location information related to a location of one or more objects bearing an object identifier having one or more object identifying characters, the one or more objects disposed adjacent a location identifier having one or more location identifying characters, the apparatus comprising:

imaging means for obtaining an image of the object identifier and for obtaining an image of the location identifier;

a processor coupled ~~at least to the first and second imaging devices~~ means for processing the object identifier to determine the object identifying characters, and for processing the location identifier ~~to determine the location identifying characters~~; and

a wireless communication device ~~for transmitting information indicative of the object identifying characters and the location identifying characters.~~

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the imaging means further comprise:
a first imaging device for capturing an image of the object identifier; and
a second imaging device for capturing an image of the location identifier.

n. 17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first and second imaging devices comprise
infrared cameras.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:
a geographic location determining device for determining location co-ordinates; and
the wireless communication device for transmitting information indicative of the location co-ordinates.